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News Release

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH: GET A KIT

LINCOLN, Neb. – Creating or updating an emergency supply kit should begin by reading the list of recommended items posted on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) emergency preparedness website, www.ready.gov.

This is the eighth annual National Preparedness Month, sponsored jointly by FEMA, Citizen Corps and the Ad Council.

"If you accomplish nothing else this month, make sure you make or freshen-up an emergency preparedness kit," said Michael L. Parker, federal coordinating officer for the Missouri River flood disaster in Nebraska.

It is easy to print a recommended list of emergency supplies from the *ready.gov* website.

"You probably already have some of the things at home that you'll need," said Earl Imler, response and recovery division supervisor for Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. "Storing items together in a container dedicated as your emergency kit will help you find it quickly, and easily allow you to refresh items that expire, like batteries, food and water."

In Nebraska, where disasters occur in any season, you should expand on the basic list from the FEMA site. For instance, cold weather protective clothing should be included. And you'll probably want to prepare for more than the minimal three-day period.

Consider duplicating some items in a kit for the car or truck, especially if you may be away from town when trouble strikes. Even a full tank of gasoline may not assure survival if you are stranded in a blizzard.

And don't forget your pets. Include enough water and food for them. You might add a fresh toy or two to help calm them.